

House that emphasized Member-to-Member contacts and outreach that are so important in building relationships, election to the Senate in 1988, Senate majority leader in 1996, and then Republican whip earlier this year. We don't want to lament the loss of a tremendous asset, but we need to always remember to celebrate those accomplishments, learn from them.

I learned that if there was a problem that needed to be resolved, you could go to TRENT to resolve it. When there was a compromise that needed to be brokered, TRENT could figure out how to make that happen.

I learned that when there was a shortage of tomatoes at the Lott household, TRENT knew he could just go a couple doors down the street and find some tomatoes in a friendly neighbor's yard. My husband and I have been neighbors with TRENT and Tricia these past 5 years. As neighbors, we share a lot of things. We share a lot of leaves. He blows the leaves down the sidewalk to my house, and my husband will blow the leaves back down to his house—good, friendly neighbors. I have always appreciated that.

Truly, whether it is the quick conversation between Members during votes or whether it is the closed-door sitdown when he comes to the office and says: LISA, I want to talk to you about this, TRENT knows the pulse of the Senate.

I would watch him on the floor. He was like a butterfly. He would come over and alight next to somebody, have a quick conversation, a talk, and then he would move over to another area and do the same thing, kind of going from person to person, always working but always friendly and always working to find a path forward. His ability to develop those relationships and work out a deal to everyone's satisfaction is a skill I certainly look to as a model for how the Senate should operate.

It is with great fondness that I wish my friend, my colleague, my neighbor well in his future endeavors.

I wish him and Tricia well and truly love as they embark on their next adventure. We do know there will be adventures. I thank him for his friendship, his service to this Nation and to this institution.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1498

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 455, S. 1498; that the committee-reported amendments be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, on behalf of Senator COBURN, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, the Captive Primate Safety Act, S. 1498, is an important, bipartisan bill promoting the humane treatment of animals and protecting public health and safety from the considerable risks associated with primate pet ownership and trade.

On May 24, 2007, I introduced S. 1498, with Senators VITTER, LAUTENBERG, LIEBERMAN, and MENENDEZ. Senator ENSIGN is also a cosponsor.

Nonhuman primates are susceptible to many biological agents that infect human beings, including tuberculosis, Ebola/Marburg, and poxviruses. Because of the serious health risk, importing nonhuman primates into the United States for the pet trade has been banned by Federal regulation since 1975. In addition, many States already prohibit these animals as pets. Still, there is an active trade in these animals. Estimates are that 15,000 are in private hands; however, as the trade is largely unregulated, the number may be much higher. Because many of these animals move in interstate commerce, Federal legislation is needed.

This legislation amends the Lacey Act to prohibit transporting monkeys, great apes, lemurs, and other nonhuman primates across State lines for the pet trade. The bill has no impact on trade or transportation of animals for zoos, medical and other licensed research facilities, or certain other licensed and regulated entities.

The Captive Primate Safety Act is supported by the Humane Society of the United States, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, Defenders of Wildlife and the Wildlife Conservation Society and many other environmental organizations and animal welfare groups.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, thank you. I appreciate your attention in presiding today, on a day when people are headed home. We are grateful for your presence here.

I join so many others—I do not want to be too redundant, but it is important to repeat expressions of gratitude—like a lot of people here, I have a lot of gratitude in my heart: gratitude for my wife Terese and my family for supporting me in my first year in the Senate; certainly for my staff—like so many Senators here could say of their own staff—I know it is true of mine; I have a great staff, and I am grateful for their help and their support and professionalism for almost a full year now; for the staff here in the Senate—I could go to any Senate office, but especially in the Chamber itself, all those who work so hard, day in and day out, year

in and year out, to make this place work, and to guide even those veteran Members on parliamentary questions, but especially some of the first-year Senators.

We are grateful for your skill, your knowledge, and your professionalism, and we wish you and your families a happy holiday season at this time.

The same goes for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, who have been so supportive of me as a first-year Senator. I will mention two in the interest of time: Senator REID, our majority leader, the majority leader of the entire Senate, and also, of course, the leader of the Democratic side of the aisle—a great leader for our party, but even beyond that, a great leader for the Senate. He is a man of great compassion and decency, someone who cares about changing the direction of the country, to move us in the right direction. He has done that very well. I am honored to serve with him.

Senator LOTT is going to be leaving us. I had the privilege of presiding yesterday when I heard all of the testimonials to his service. I was honored to be a small part—a witness of that Senate history. We wish Senator LOTT and his family all of God's blessings at this holiday season. But also beyond the season, we wish him the best of luck in his new life outside of the Senate. We are grateful for his service.

I have one more note of gratitude and best wishes, and that is to those who are serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world—those men and women in our military the world over who are doing that brave and noble service every day. We are thinking of them. We pray for them at this time, as we try to throughout the year. But especially we are thinking of them and their families at this holiday season.

(Mr. SALAZAR assumed the Chair.)

#### AMERICAN FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I am going to try to be about 5 minutes. I want to highlight a couple of issues, not only because it is this season but I think especially because it is this season, the holiday season.

When we think about families coming together, we think about hope, and we think about caring for people. We think about exchanging gifts. It is a time of happiness. But for some families it is not so. It is a very difficult time for a lot of families—not only during the holiday season but the winter season.

I was struck, unfortunately, in a very negative way the other day. I think it was yesterday. I picked up the Washington Post and read a story about President Bush's speech about the economy. We can go through that and debate what he said, but one of the first sentences in that article quoted him as follows—when he was talking about the economy: